

REMARKS

Claim 16 has been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 12-15 and 17-20 are now in the application.

Claim 12 has been amended to incorporate the limitation from Claim 16.

Claims 19 and 20 have been amended to properly reflect their dependency from Claim 12.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made".

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The previous rejection of Claims 12-20 as being unpatentable over Naik, US 5,387,373, has been withdrawn.

Claims 12-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Surutzidis et al., US 5,858,950. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Surutzidis et al. teach detergent compositions comprising a Guerbet anionic surfactant. The compositions can further comprise non-Guerbet anionic surfactants and nonionic surfactants such as amine oxide. However, Surutzidis et al. do not teach or suggest compositions comprising magnesium ions. As such, Surutzidis et al. do not teach or recognize that detergent compositions, especially those containing anionic surfactant and cations such as magnesium ions, can suffer from instability at low temperatures.

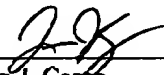
The presently claimed invention relates to liquid detergent compositions comprising alkyl alkoxy sulfate surfactants, amine oxide, magnesium ions, and water. The present compositions exhibit improved stability at low temperatures. As discussed above, Surutzidis et al. do not teach or recognize the stability problems associated with detergent compositions at low temperatures and thus do not teach or suggest a composition comprising this combination of components as presently claimed. Applicants thus submit that Claims 12-15 and 17-20 are unobvious and patentable over Surutzidis et al. under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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March 7, 2003

CM1431am2.doc

Customer Number: 27752

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 16 has been canceled without prejudice.

Claim 12 has been amended as follows:

12. (Twice Amended) An aqueous liquid detergent composition comprising from 30% to 70% by weight of the total composition of water, from 0.1% to 2% by weight of the total composition of magnesium ions, and a surfactant mixture comprising:

a) an alkyl alkoxy sulfate surfactant of the formula $R_1O(A)_xSO_3M$, where R_1 is an alkyl or alkenyl group having 9 to 16 carbon atoms, A is an alkoxy group, x represents 0.5 to 3 in average, and M is a member selected from the group consisting of alkali metals, alkali earth metals, ammonium and alkanolammonium, wherein from 20% to 60% by weight of the total alkyl alkoxy sulfate comprises an alkyl alkoxy sulfate wherein R_1 is branched such that the composition provides sudsing; and

b) 0.5% to 10% of an amine oxide surfactant.

19. (Amended) A method of washing soiled dishes comprising diluting a composition according to Claim [1] 12 in water, and immersing the soiled dishes in the diluted composition and contacting the soiled dishes, in the presence of the diluted composition, with a washing article such that the soiled dishes are cleaned.

20. (Amended) A method of washing soiled dishes comprising immersing the soiled dishes into a water bath, absorbing an effective amount of a composition according to Claim [1] 12 onto a device, and contacting each of the soiled dishes with the device such that the soiled dishes are cleaned.